

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FT. BLISS GARRISON
COMMANDER COLONEL JOSEPH
SIMONELLI

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Joseph Simonelli for his outstanding service to the Army and the nation.

For the past two years, Colonel Simonelli has served as the garrison commander of Fort Bliss. A garrison commander is the Mayor of an Army installation with responsibility for everything from potholes to energy contracts. It is one of the most challenging positions in the Army, and only a few of the most outstanding officers are selected for this top command position.

Colonel Simonelli has lead Fort Bliss at a critical juncture in the post's and the Army's history. With wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he provided critical support to soldiers training for combat, while taking care of family members. He ensured that the spouses, parents, and children of deploying troops, facing so much stress, felt the warm embrace of the Army family.

As Fort Bliss was deploying combat forces, the post was also continuing to adjust to the impact of the 2005 BRAC which relocated the 1st Armored Division to El Paso. Colonel Simonelli oversaw important projects including construction of the new Lifestyle Center which is now providing upgraded facilities to support military families and has become an important hub for the community. Colonel Simonelli worked to transform the Lifestyle Center into more than a just place to shop or dine; the Lifestyle Center has become the heart of Fort Bliss, open and welcoming to all. This new gathering place is a model, not just for the military, but for all communities.

Colonel Simonelli and his staff tackled this and other projects, including the designation of Fort Bliss as one of the two Net Zero installations, with incredible efficiency and dedication. Colonel Simonelli instilled in all an unwavering commitment to supporting soldiers and their families.

As Joe and Bettye Marie move on to the next chapter in their life in the Army, I rise to offer my thanks for all that they have done to make Fort Bliss a better place to work and live. Their hard work and dedication has touched so many lives, and we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude for all that they have done for our soldiers, for our community, and for our nation.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF JAMES
ARNESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the life of Mr. James Arness, the legendary actor best known for his role as U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon in the television series, "Gunsmoke." Mr. Arness would have celebrated his 89th birthday tomorrow, on May 26, so it is fitting that we acknowledge his tremendous legacy this week.

Mr. Arness played one of the most iconic characters in the history of television. As a testament to its overwhelming popularity, "Gunsmoke," which was set in Dodge City, still stands out as one of the most popular weekly drama series, running a remarkable 20 years from 1955 through 1975.

Mr. Arness shaped a character that was as beloved as the man himself. His fans spanned the world and were as devoted as any fan base bar none. Clearly, Mr. Arness created a cowboy and lawman that resonated with viewers worldwide.

Before his rise to fame, Mr. Arness served in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was severely wounded during Operation Shingle in Anzio, Italy. For his heroic actions, he was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

Following his military service, Mr. Arness hitchhiked to Hollywood and began his acting career. In addition to his wonderful role as Marshal Matt Dillon, he had a lengthy and impressive list of acting achievements in both television and film and was nominated for three Emmy Awards.

For his unparalleled contributions, Mr. Arness was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was also inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy and Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City and the Santa Clarita Walk of Western Stars, and was named by People Magazine as one of the top ten television stars of all time. In addition, The State of Alabama House of Representatives passed a resolution in honor of Mr. Arness in 2011.

Mr. Arness was a devoted and loving family man. He left behind his wife, Janet, along with wonderful children and grandchildren. His legacy will forever live on through them.

It is my pleasure to recognize the iconic life of James Arness and ask my colleagues join me in expressing our debt of gratitude to him.

JACOB WILLIAM WARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob William Ward. Jacob is a

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has earned distinction of becoming a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow and has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, Junior Assistant Scout Master and Troop Guide. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob constructed, built and placed benches along the walking trails at Smithville Lake so that his community can enjoy Smithville Lake and the surrounding wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob William Ward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ARMY STAFF SERGEANT AN-
DREW TREVOR BRITTON-MIHALO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deepest sympathy that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Army Staff Sergeant Andrew Trevor Britton-Mihalo died on April 25, 2012, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, while training Afghan Special Operations Forces. SSG Britton-Mihalo, a Green Beret, was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group; and, prior to his deployment, he was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

SSG Britton-Mihalo first entered the Army in 2005 after graduating from Royal High School in Simi Valley, California. Just three years later, in 2008, his trademark drive, determination and toughness helped SSG Britton-Mihalo win the right to join the elite ranks of the U.S. Army Special Forces. This impressive accomplishment did not surprise anyone who knew him. Prior to joining the Army, SSG Britton-Mihalo had already distinguished himself as an Eagle Scout and as a champion high school wrestler who won the match that secured his school their first-ever state wrestling title. He was described by those who knew him as one who was always fighting for the underdog and was quick to protect those who could not protect themselves. It was only fitting that such a man would join the Special Forces whose motto, *De oppresso liber*, is translated, "to liberate the oppressed"; and, true to his character, that is exactly what SSG

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